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Letter dated 6 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that serious violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law continue to be perpetrated against the innocent civilian population in the provinces of Nord and Sud Kivu and in Orientale province, even though Ugandan and Rwandan troops have moved away from the centre of the town of Kisangani.

My Government wishes to point out that in the Congolese regions of Rutshuru, Lubero and Beni (Orientale province), the seriousness of the violence caused by the Ugandan army has prompted more than 104,185 people, with some 62,500 children, to move, and that all are being held in Kanyabayonga without any humanitarian assistance.

My Government also wishes to inform the Security Council that there are reliable reports of the systematic persecution of Congolese civilians of the Lendu tribe by Ugandan troops.

My Government also wishes to point out that in Sud Kivu province, close to Burundi, the coalition of troops of the regular armies of Rwanda and Burundi and rebels of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie who occupy that province, daily commit inhuman and barbarous acts, including numerous rapes of young girls.

My Government also wishes to recall that the resumption, on Friday, 5 May 2000, of fighting between troops of the regular armies of Rwanda and Uganda in the Congolese town of Kisangani seriously affected Nord Kivu province and that scenes of violence against the Congolese population in that part have also been observed there.

My Government wishes to inform the Security Council that, at a time when the Congolese population of Kisangani was being exterminated by the regular armed forces of Rwanda and Uganda, the Buito region — and more specifically the villages in the vicinity of Kibirizi in Nord Kivu — were paying the same price for the deadly folly of Rwanda and Uganda; the toll is more than 200 dead.

My Government wishes to point out that this violence fairly often takes place in that part of the country during armed attacks by the Rwandan Patriotic Army on the Congolese civilian population, the aim being to empty the Congolese villages of their inhabitants.

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My Government notes, once again, that the repeated gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda in Congolese territory is a reflection of the sense of security and encouragement which the aggressors feel as they have been allowed to act with impunity, and in the absence of any condemnation from the Security Council since they first ventured into Congolese territory.

Consequently, my Government once again invites the Security Council to do justice by going beyond mere statements and to consider specific action to:

(a) Cause Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi to cease forthwith and completely their policy of extermination of the Congolese population and to abide strictly by the Lusaka Agreement and the other relevant commitments which they have entered into freely;

(b) Establish a team to investigate the massacres and other atrocities committed by Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi against the Congolese population so as to identify those responsible and bring them before the courts in accordance with the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions 1291 (2000) and 1304 (2000);

(c) Make all necessary arrangements to put an end to the illegal exploitation of the wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is fuelling this war of aggression, and to invite these two countries to abide strictly by the Lusaka Agreement and the other relevant commitments stemming therefrom;

(d) Initiate the accelerated, total and complete withdrawal of Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which they are occupying in violation of the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and of Security Council resolution 1304 (2000).

My Government requests that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) André M. **Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative